



Tuesday, July 31, 2007

## Use common sense to avoid being scammed

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It seems week after week I receive e-mails from the Arizona Attorney General's Office alerting me to a new scam - via phone, Internet, mail or in person.

As a journalist, I take them to heart and put them in the paper notifying the public of what is going on around the state that could possibly affect anyone. As an everyday citizen, on the other hand, I find it hard to believe that people can fall for such schemes.

My advice and the approach I take is, when in doubt, call.

If you get an e-mail stating your bank said there was an error with your account and they just need you to sign into your online account, call your bank. If someone says they're a hit man hired to kill you but won't if you give them more money, call the police.

That seems like a simple enough solution.

I refuse to believe that people lose all their intelligence and common sense when they hit retirement age. When I was at the Kathryn Heidenreich Adult Center for Terry Goddard's visit, those around me expressed the same view.

But it happens to people of all ages and genders.

At least the AG has put an office in Kingman to provide help and information for the citizens of Kingman. It's open from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays at the Heidenreich Center, 1776 Airway Ave. You can always call the AG at 1-800-352-8431.

The Attorney General's Office also sends out scam alerts and weekly messages from Attorney General Goddard if you sign up on at [www.azag.gov](http://www.azag.gov).

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